

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 933

Short Title: Informed Consent for HIV/AIDS Testing. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Mobley and Farmer-Butterfield (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Health and Human Services.

April 15, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES PERTAINING TO
3 HIV/AIDS TESTING AND TO UPDATE INFORMED CONSENT REQUIREMENTS
4 FOR HIV/AIDS TESTING.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new Part to read:

8 "Part 1B. Testing for HIV/AIDS.

9 **"§ 130A-151. Definitions.**

10 The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 11 (1) HIV/AIDS. – The human immunodeficiency virus that causes acquired
12 immune deficiency syndrome.
13 (2) Health care facility. – A facility licensed under Chapter 131E or Chapter
14 122C of the General Statutes that provides health care services to patients or
15 the office of a health care provider.
16 (3) Health care provider. – A physician, physician assistant, nurse, chiropractor,
17 dentist, or podiatrist who is licensed to practice in North Carolina."

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-148(a) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
19 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.1 and reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 130A-151.1. Laboratory certification to perform tests for HIV/AIDS.**

21 (a) For the protection of the public health, the Commission shall adopt rules
22 establishing standards for the certification of laboratories to perform tests for ~~Acquired Immune~~
23 ~~Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus infection.~~HIV/AIDS. The rules shall address, but not be
24 limited to, proficiency testing, record maintenance, adequate staffing and confirmatory testing.
25 Tests for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS shall be performed only by laboratories certified
26 pursuant to this ~~subsection~~section and only on specimens submitted by a ~~physician licensed to~~
27 ~~practice medicine.~~health care provider.

28 (b) This ~~subsection~~section ~~shall not~~does not apply to testing performed solely for
29 research purposes under the approval of an institutional review board."

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-148(b) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
31 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.2. and reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 130A-151.2. Mandatory dissemination of information about HIV/AIDS to blood,**
33 **semen, tissue, and organ donors.**

34 (b) Prior to obtaining consent for donation of blood, semen, tissue or organs, a facility
35 or institution seeking to obtain blood, tissue, semen or organs for transfusion, implantation,



1 transplantation or administration shall provide the potential donor with information about ~~AIDS~~
2 ~~virus transmission~~, the transmission of HIV/AIDS and information about who should not
3 donate."

4 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-148(c) through (e) are recodified in Part 1B of Article 6
5 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.3 and read as rewritten:

6 "**§ 130A-151.3. Mandatory testing for HIV/AIDS prior to certain procedures; immunity**
7 **from civil liability.**

8 (e)(a) No blood or semen may be transfused or administered when blood from the donor
9 has not been tested or has tested positive for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS by a standard
10 laboratory test.

11 (d)(b) No tissue or organs may be transplanted or implanted when blood from the donor
12 has not been tested or has tested positive for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS by a standard
13 laboratory test unless consent is obtained from the recipient, or from the recipient's guardian or
14 a responsible adult relative of the recipient if the recipient is not competent to give such
15 consent.

16 (e)(c) Any facility or institution that obtains or transfuses, implants, transplants, or
17 administers blood, tissue, semen, or organs shall be immune from civil or criminal liability that
18 otherwise might be incurred or imposed for transmission of ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS if
19 the facility or institution has complied with the provisions specified in subsections (b), (e), and
20 (d) of this section have been complied with of this section."

21 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 130A-148(f) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
22 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.4 and reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 130A-151.4. Informed consent for HIV/AIDS tests not required for research or**
24 **epidemiologic purposes.**

25 (f) Specimens may be tested for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS for research or
26 epidemiologic purposes without consent of the person from whom the specimen is obtained if
27 all personal identifying information is removed from the specimen prior to testing."

28 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 130A-148(g) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
29 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.5 and reads as rewritten:

30 "**§ 130A-151.5. Notification and counseling about test results for HIV/AIDS.**

31 (g)(a) Persons tested for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS shall be notified of test ~~results~~
32 ~~and counseled appropriately.~~results. Persons who test positive shall be provided with a referral
33 for treatment and supportive services and counseled appropriately. Counseling shall include at
34 least all of the following elements:

35 (1) Instructions to the person to inform all sexual and needle-sharing partners of
36 the person's positive test result.

37 (2) An offer to assist the person with notifying all sexual and needle-sharing
38 partners of the person's positive test result or a referral of the person to the
39 local health director for assistance with notifying all sexual and
40 needle-sharing partners of the person's positive test result.

41 (b) The local health director shall make available to health care providers in their
42 jurisdiction information on referral resources for individuals who test positive for HIV/AIDS,
43 including available counseling, testing, needs assessment, treatment, and support services.

44 (c) This subsection shall~~section does~~ not apply to tests performed by or for entities
45 governed by Article 39 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes, the Insurance Information and
46 Privacy Protection Act, provided that said entities comply with the notice requirements
47 thereof."

48 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 130A-148(h) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
49 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.6 and reads as rewritten:

50 "**§ 130A-151.6. Authorization and informed consent to perform tests for HIV/AIDS.**

1 (a) The Commission may authorize or require laboratory tests for ~~AIDS virus~~
2 ~~infection~~HIV/AIDS when necessary to protect the public health.

3 (b) ~~A test for AIDS virus infection may also be performed upon any person solely by~~
4 ~~order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina who~~ health care provider
5 may order a test for HIV/AIDS to be performed upon any person to whom the health care
6 provider is rendering medical services to that person ~~services~~ when, in the reasonable medical
7 judgment of the ~~physician~~ health care provider, the test is necessary for the appropriate
8 treatment of the person; ~~however, the person shall be informed that a test for AIDS virus~~
9 ~~infection is to be conducted, and shall be given clear opportunity to refuse to submit to the test~~
10 ~~prior to it being conducted, and further if informed consent is not obtained, the test may not be~~
11 ~~performed.~~ person, and the health care provider ensures that all of the following occur prior to
12 administration of the test:

13 (1) The person is informed that a test for HIV/AIDS will be administered.

14 (2) The person is informed of the right to refuse the test for HIV/AIDS without
15 any penalties associated with refusing the test.

16 (3) Documentation of the informed consent is recorded in writing in the person's
17 medical record.

18 (4) The person receives pretest counseling, which may be provided verbally, in
19 writing, by video, or a combination of these, as appropriate, based on the
20 person's informational needs and testing history.

21 (c) A facility other than a health care facility may order a test for HIV/AIDS after
22 ensuring that all of the following occur prior to administration of the test:

23 (1) The person is informed that a test for HIV/AIDS will be administered.

24 (2) The person is informed of the right to refuse the test for HIV/AIDS and any
25 lawful penalties associated with refusing the test.

26 (3) Documentation of the person's informed consent is recorded in writing on a
27 form approved by the Department that is separate and distinct from any other
28 consent form used by the facility. To demonstrate compliance with this
29 subdivision, the facility shall include on the informed consent form (i) the
30 person's signature or (ii) a patient identifying number obtained from an
31 anonymous and confidential test site that has been approved by the
32 Department.

33 (d) ~~A physician~~ health care provider or health care facility may order a test for ~~AIDS~~
34 ~~virus infection~~HIV/AIDS without the informed consent of the person tested if the person is
35 incapable of providing or incompetent to provide such consent, others authorized to give
36 consent for the person are not available, and testing is necessary for appropriate diagnosis or
37 care of the person.

38 (e) ~~An~~ A health care provider or health care facility may administer a test for
39 HIV/AIDS to an unemancipated minor may be tested for AIDS virus infection without the
40 consent of the parent or legal guardian of the minor when the parent or guardian has refused to
41 consent to such testing and there is reasonable suspicion that the minor has ~~AIDS virus or HIV~~
42 ~~infection~~HIV/AIDS or that the child has been sexually abused."

43 **SECTION 8.** The first two paragraphs of G.S. 130A-148(i) are recodified in Part
44 1B of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.7 and read as
45 rewritten:

46 "**§ 130A-151.7. Unlawful testing for HIV/AIDS; unlawful discrimination against persons**
47 **with HIV/AIDS.**

48 (i)(a) Except as provided in this section, no test for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS shall
49 be required, performed or used to determine suitability for continued employment, housing or
50 public services, or for the use of places of public accommodation as defined in G.S. 168A-3(8),
51 or public transportation. ~~Further it shall be~~

1 (b) It is unlawful to discriminate against any person having ~~AIDS virus or HIV~~
2 ~~infection~~HIV/AIDS on account of that infection in determining suitability for continued
3 employment, housing, or public services, or for the use of places of public accommodation, as
4 defined in G.S. 168A-3(8), or public transportation."

5 **SECTION 9.** The last five paragraphs of G.S. 130A-148(i) are recodified in Part
6 1B of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.8 and read as
7 rewritten:

8 "**§ 130A-151.8. Civil action for unlawful discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS.**

9 (a) Any person aggrieved by an act or discriminatory practice prohibited by ~~this~~
10 ~~subsection~~G.S. 130A-151.7 relating to housing shall be entitled to institute a civil action
11 pursuant to G.S. 41A-7 of the State Fair Housing Act. Any person aggrieved by an act or
12 discriminatory practice prohibited by ~~this subsection~~G.S. 130A-151.7 other than one relating to
13 housing may bring a civil action to enforce rights granted or protected by ~~this subsection~~that
14 section, as provided in subsections (b) through (d) of this section.

15 (b) The action shall be commenced in superior court in the county where the alleged
16 discriminatory practice or prohibited conduct occurred or where the plaintiff or defendant
17 resides. ~~Such~~The action shall be tried to the court without a jury. Any relief granted by the
18 court shall be limited to declaratory and injunctive relief, including orders to hire or reinstate an
19 aggrieved person or admit ~~such an aggrieved~~ person to a labor organization.

20 (c) In a civil action brought to enforce provisions of ~~this subsection~~G.S. 130A-151.7
21 relating to employment, the court may award back pay. Any such back pay liability shall not
22 accrue from a date more than two years prior to the filing of an action under this
23 ~~subsection~~section. Interim earnings or amounts earnable with reasonable diligence by the
24 aggrieved person shall operate to reduce the back pay otherwise allowable. In any civil action
25 brought under this ~~subsection~~section, the court, in its discretion, may award reasonable
26 attorney's fees to the substantially prevailing party as a part of costs.

27 (d) A civil action brought pursuant to this ~~subsection~~section shall be commenced within
28 180 days after the date on which the aggrieved person became aware or, with reasonable
29 diligence, should have become aware of the alleged discriminatory practice or prohibited
30 conduct.

31 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prohibit an employer ~~from~~from
32 doing any of the following:

- 33 (1) Requiring a test for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS for job applicants in
34 preemployment medical examinations required by the ~~employer~~employer.
- 35 (2) Denying employment to a job applicant based solely on a confirmed positive
36 test for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS.
- 37 (3) Including a test for ~~AIDS virus infection~~HIV/AIDS performed in the course
38 of an annual medical examination routinely required of all employees by the
39 ~~employer~~employer.
- 40 (4) Taking ~~the~~ appropriate employment action, including reassignment or
41 termination of employment, if ~~the continuation by the~~allowing an employee
42 who has ~~AIDS virus or HIV infection of his~~HIV/AIDS to continue the same
43 work tasks would pose a significant risk to the health of the employee,
44 coworkers, or the public, or if the employee is unable to perform the
45 normally assigned duties of the job."

46 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 130A-148(j) is recodified in Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter
47 130A of the General Statutes as G.S. 130A-151.9 and reads as rewritten:

48 "**§ 130A-151.9. Lawful differences in health care treatment for persons with HIV/AIDS.**

49 (j) It shall not be unlawful for a licensed health care provider or health care facility
50 ~~to~~to do any of the following:

- 1 (1) Treat a person who has ~~AIDS virus or HIV infection~~HIV/AIDS differently
2 from persons who do not have that infection when such treatment is
3 appropriate to protect the health care provider or employees of the provider
4 or employees of the facility while providing appropriate care for the person
5 who has ~~the AIDS virus or HIV infection; or~~HIV/AIDS.
6 (2) Refer a person who has ~~AIDS virus or HIV infection~~HIV/AIDS to another
7 licensed health care provider or facility when such referral is for the purpose
8 of providing more appropriate treatment for the person with ~~AIDS virus or~~
9 ~~HIV infection.~~HIV/AIDS."

10 **SECTION 11.** Part 1B of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is
11 amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **"§ 130A-151.10. Testing for HIV/AIDS in pregnant women.**

13 (a) A health care provider or health care facility that provides prenatal care, as defined
14 in G.S. 90-178.2, shall do all of the following:

- 15 (1) Notify each pregnant patient that she will be tested for HIV/AIDS as part of
16 the routine prenatal blood tests.
17 (2) Advise the pregnant patient that she has the right to refuse the test for
18 HIV/AIDS without any penalties associated with the refusal and document
19 in the medical record if the patient declines the test.
20 (3) Obtain informed consent from the pregnant patient prior to administering the
21 test for HIV/AIDS as provided in G.S. 130A-151.6(b).
22 (4) Provide the pretest counseling required by G.S. 130A-151.6(b), which shall
23 include at least all of the following:
24 a. Education on the effect of a positive test result for HIV/AIDS on the
25 pregnant patient and the fetus concerning the risk of transmission of
26 HIV/AIDS to the fetus.
27 b. Education on recognized methods of reducing that risk, including the
28 use of pharmaceuticals during pregnancy known to reduce the risk of
29 transmission of HIV/AIDS to the fetus.
30 (5) Administer the test for HIV/AIDS.
31 (6) Offer to each pregnant patient during the third trimester of pregnancy the
32 opportunity to take an HIV/AIDS test if the pregnant patient has not
33 previously been tested for HIV/AIDS earlier in the pregnancy.
34 (7) Consider routinely offering a repeat test for HIV/AIDS to all pregnant
35 women during the third trimester when all of the following circumstances
36 exist:
37 a. The health care provider is providing prenatal medical care to the
38 pregnant patient at a health care facility located in an area with a high
39 prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
40 b. The pregnant patient is at a high risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.
41 (8) Provide a referral for treatment and supportive services.

42 (b) A health care provider or health care facility that provides labor and delivery
43 services to pregnant women shall offer all of the following:

- 44 (1) To pregnant patients with unknown or undocumented HIV/AIDS status, a
45 rapid test for HIV/AIDS during labor and delivery.
46 (2) To pregnant patients whose rapid test for HIV/AIDS is positive during labor
47 and delivery, an antiretroviral prophylaxis prior to receiving the results of a
48 confirmatory test for HIV/AIDS.

49 (c) A health care provider or health care facility acting in good faith to provide the
50 counseling required under subdivision (a)(4) of this section shall not be held liable in any cause

1 of action related to the pregnant patient's decision to consent or not to consent to a test for
2 HIV/AIDS."

3 **SECTION 12.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013.